

Introduced by Senator Runner
(Coauthors: Senators Aanestad, Correa, Cox, Emmerson, Harman,
and Strickland)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Knight)

June 15, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to Father’s Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 112, as introduced, Runner. Father’s Day.

This measure would observe June 20, 2010, as Father’s Day and recognize the contribution of fathers. This measure would also urge men to embrace the responsibilities of fathering a child and encourage parents to strengthen their relationship by attending and participating in marriage and relationship education classes. The measure would state the intent of the Legislature to explore ways to increase access to and participation in marriage and relationship education programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Fatherhood provides unique and lasting joys.
2 Cradling a baby in his arms, a father experiences the miracle of
3 life and an unbreakable bond. Fathers imagine a world of
4 possibilities awaiting their children and contemplate the privilege
5 of helping them reach their goals. As kids grow and mature, they
6 look to their father for a special kind of love and support; and
7 WHEREAS, In a large survey conducted in 2008, 95 percent
8 of Californians agreed that fathers and mothers were equally
9 important in influencing the healthy development of children, that
10 more than five times as many of those whose parents were not
11 married viewed their fathers as uninvolved in their upbringing,

1 and 84 percent of Californians polled agreed that, all things being
2 equal, it is better for a child to be raised in a household with a
3 father; and

4 WHEREAS, There is a positive correlation between marital
5 quality and the quality of the father-child relationship; and

6 WHEREAS, Marriage and relationship education classes have
7 been found in hundreds of research studies to help couples learn
8 skills that reduce strife, improve communication, increase parenting
9 skills, and increase marital and family stability; and

10 WHEREAS, An analysis of more than 100 research studies
11 concluded that a nurturing father's love is profoundly important
12 in a child's psychological adjustment, conduct, cognitive and
13 academic performance, mental health, and resistance to substance
14 abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, As children encounter new and challenging
16 experiences, they need guidance and counsel. Fathers help their
17 children make the right choices by serving as strong role models.
18 Honest and hard-working fathers are an irreplaceable influence
19 upon their children; and

20 WHEREAS, Children with involved, loving fathers are
21 significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy
22 self-esteem, and exhibit empathy and positive social behaviors as
23 compared to children who have uninvolved fathers. Committed
24 and responsible fathering during infancy and early childhood
25 contributes to emotional security, intellectual curiosity, and strong
26 academic skills; and

27 WHEREAS, Fathers have an obligation to help rear the children
28 they bring into the world. Fathers must help instill in their kids the
29 values that will sustain them for a lifetime. Unfortunately, the
30 absence of the father from the family has risen greatly in the last
31 four decades, with 34 percent of American children currently living
32 without their biological fathers, substantially burdening both the
33 federal and state budgets, thereby costing California taxpayers
34 approximately \$12,000,000,000 annually for social services
35 associated with family breakdowns; and

36 WHEREAS, On Father's Day, we pay tribute to the loving and
37 caring fathers who are strengthening their families and our country.
38 We also honor those surrogate fathers who raise, mentor, or care
39 for someone else's child. Thousands of young children benefit
40 from the influence of great men, and we acknowledge their

1 willingness to give and continue giving. We also express special
2 gratitude to fathers who serve in the United States Armed Forces
3 for the sacrifices they and their families make every day; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the California Legislature hereby observes
7 Father's Day this June 20, 2010, and calls upon Californians to
8 recognize the contributions of millions of fathers who are serving
9 as admirable role models and caring parents of their children; and
10 be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature urges men to embrace
12 the responsibilities that fathering a child requires, especially in the
13 encouragement of moral and academic development through active
14 involvement in the rearing and development of their children,
15 including the devotion of time, energy, and resources; and be it
16 further

17 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature encourages parents to
18 strengthen their relationship with each other by attending and
19 participating in marriage and relationship education classes; and
20 be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature intends to explore
22 ways to increase access to and participation in marriage and
23 relationship education programs; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
25 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.